

What is claimed is:

1. A method of operating a self-service checkout terminal located in a checkout area of a retail store, comprising the steps of:

generating a payment-tendered control signal when a user of said
5 self-service checkout terminal tenders payment for a number of items for purchase;

detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store and generating a walk-away control signal in response thereto; and

generating a personnel-request control signal if said walk-away
10 control signal is generated prior to generation of said payment-tendered control signal.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in
15 response to generation of said personnel-request control signal.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store includes the step of detecting movement of said user on a movement detection floor mat and
20 generating said walk-away control signal if said movement of said user is indicative of an attempt by said user to exit said checkout area of said retail store.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting step includes the step of detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to return to a shopping area of said retail store and generating a return-to-shopping control signal in response thereto, further comprising
5 the steps of:

detecting if said user returns to said checkout area of said retail store from said shopping area of said retail store and generating a return-to-terminal control signal in response thereto; and

operating said self-service checkout terminal so as to allow said
10 user to continue a retail transaction in response to generation of said return-to-terminal control signal.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to return to said shopping area of said retail store includes the step of detecting movement
15 of said user on a movement detection floor mat in a direction toward said shopping area and generating said return-to-shopping control signal in response thereto.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting step includes the step of detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to exit said retail store and generating an exiting-store control signal in response thereto, further comprising the steps of:

- 5 generating a personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response to generation of said exiting-store control signal; and
- operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-needed-immediately control signal.

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7. The method of claim 6, wherein, said step of detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to exit said retail store includes the step of detecting movement of said user on a movement detection floor mat in a direction indicative of an attempt by
- 15 said user to exit said retail store and generating said personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response thereto.

8. A method of operating a self-service checkout terminal located in a checkout area of a retail store, comprising the steps of:

generating a payment-tendered control signal when a user of said self-service checkout terminal tenders payment for a number of items for purchase;

detecting movement of said user on a movement detection floor mat and generating a walk-away control signal if said movement of said user is indicative of an attempt by said user to exit said checkout area of said retail store; and

generating a personnel-request control signal if said walk-away control signal is generated prior to generation of said payment-tendered control signal.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-request control signal.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein said detecting step includes the step of detecting movement of said user on said movement detection floor mat so as to determine if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to return to a shopping area of said retail store and
5 generating a return-to-shopping control signal in response thereto, further comprising the steps of:

detecting movement of said user on said movement detection floor mat so as to determine if said user returns to said checkout area of said retail store from said shopping area of said retail store and generating a
10 return-to-terminal control signal in response thereto; and

operating said self-service checkout terminal so as to allow said user to continue a retail transaction in response to generation of said return-to-terminal control signal.

15 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said step of detecting movement of said user on said movement detection floor mat so as to determine if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to return to said shopping area of said retail store includes the step of detecting movement of said user on said movement detection floor mat in
20 a direction toward said shopping area and generating said return-to-shopping control signal in response thereto.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein said detecting step includes the step of detecting movement of said user on said movement detection floor mat so as to determine if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to exit said retail store and generating an exiting-store control signal in response thereto, further comprising the steps of:

5 generating a personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response to generation of said exiting-store control signal; and

 operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-needed-immediately control

10 signal.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein, said step of detecting movement of said user on said movement detection floor mat so as to determine if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to exit said retail store includes the step of detecting movement of said user

15 on said movement detection floor mat in a direction indicative of an attempt by said user to exit said retail store and generating said personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response thereto.

14. A self-service checkout terminal, comprising:

a movement detecting device for detecting movement of a user thereon;

a processing unit electrically coupled to said movement detecting
5 device; and

a memory device electrically coupled to said processing unit,
wherein said memory device has stored therein a plurality of instructions
which, when executed by said processing unit, causes said processing
unit to:

10 (a) generate a payment-tendered control signal when said user of
said self-service checkout terminal tenders payment for a number of items
for purchase,

(b) detect if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store
with said movement detecting device and generate a walk-away control
15 signal in response thereto, and

(c) generate a personnel-request control signal if said walk-away
control signal is generated prior to generation of said payment-tendered
control signal.

15. The retail terminal of claim 14, further comprising a
summoning device for summoning retail personnel, wherein said plurality
of instructions, when executed by said processing unit, further causes
said processing unit to operate said summoning device so as to summon
5 said retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-request
control signal.

16. The retail terminal of claim 14, wherein:
said movement detecting device includes a movement detection
10 floor mat, and
said plurality of instructions, when executed by said processing
unit, further causes said processing unit to detect movement of said user
on said movement detection floor mat and generate said walk-away
control signal in response thereto.

17. The retail terminal of claim 16, wherein said plurality of instructions, when executed by said processing unit, further causes said processing unit to:

(a) detect if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so
5 as to return to a shopping area of said retail store with said movement detection floor mat and generate a return-to-shopping control signal in response thereto,

(b) detect if said user returns to said checkout area of said retail store from said shopping area of said retail store with said movement
10 detection floor mat and generate a return-to-terminal control signal in response thereto, and

(c) operate said self-service checkout terminal so as to allow said user to continue a retail transaction in response to generation of said return-to-terminal control signal.

18. The retail terminal of claim 16, further comprising a summoning device for summoning retail personnel, wherein said plurality of instructions, when executed by said processing unit, further causes said processing unit to:

5 (a) detect if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to exit said retail store with said movement detection floor mat and generate an exiting-store control signal in response thereto,

 (b) generate a personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response to generation of said exiting-store control signal, and

10 (c) operate said summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-needed-immediately control signal.